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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, February 2, 2011

Public Affairs  
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## **METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Gerardo Serna-Gonzalez, 51, of Nogales, Mexico, was sentenced today by Judge Linda R. Reade to 15-and-a-half years in prison for methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking. Serna-Gonzalez pleaded guilty on September 9, 2010 to Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Importation of Methamphetamine, and Importation of Cocaine.

On June 14, 2010, Serna-Gonzalez entered the U. S. at the DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz., with approximately 14 kilograms of methamphetamine and approximately 3.24 kilograms of cocaine hidden in his vehicle. Laboratory tests later confirmed that the methamphetamine was "Ice," as the purity of the substance was 99.9 percent.

At sentencing, Serna-Gonzalez claimed that he was a first-time drug trafficker, a statement that conflicted with the confession he made to ICE agents on the date of his arrest.

The investigation leading to the conviction was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Melissa A. Meister, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-10-1688-TUC-CKJ  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2011-014(Serna-Gonzalez)

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